Manufacturing of Vanaspati

2701. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was direction in force upto 1970 that the manufactures of Vanaspati must use coconut oil to a volume of 70 percent production of it;

(b) the reasons for removing this control later;

(c) whether it has been noted by Government that the manufacturing of vanaspati are using low quality and low cost oils for its production and this acquiring huge profits; and

(d) whether Government would give directives to the manufacturers of Vanaspati to use at least 50 per-cent coconut oil and if so, that quality of the product may be improved and fall in price of coconut can be checked?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Vanasapati is required to conform to standards of quality and other requirements including permitted oils to be used in its manufacture as laid down under the Vegetable Oil Products (Standard of Quality) Order 1975 and also Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955.

(d) In accordance with the Vegetable Oil Products (Standards of Quality) Order, 1975, no ceiling has been fixed for the use of coconut oil in the manufacture of Vanasapati.

New Agricultural policy of Karnataka Government

2702. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are aware of the fact that Government of Karnataka has come out with a draft agricutural policy which if implemented, can prove a model policy for other States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction therto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) Government of Karnataka has prepared a draft Agricultural Policy with the aim of spurring growth in Agricultural and allied sectors which would generate more employment and cut down poverty in rural areas. The policy envisages an investment of Rs.1000 crores per annum in the agriculture sector during the next five years. Out of this, roughly 50 percent is proposed to be contributed by the private sector and the rest by the public sector.

The Government of Karnataka have sought the comments of Central Government on the draft Agricultural policy which would be forwarded to them in consultation with all concerned.

Central Assistance to Harayana for Flood-Relief Measures

2703. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the answers to Starred Question 2 and Unstarred Question 1270 given in the Rajya Sabha on Ist December, 1995 and 8th December, 1995 respectively and state whether Government have received any report about the disbursement of relief aid to the flood victims in Haryana and whether any caste-criteria were adopted in this regard and sufferers of certain castes denied any relief; if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): No, Sir

Availability of Fertilizers in U.P.

2704. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the availability of fertilizers in Central and Eastern U.P. is not satisfactory and the farmers are facing problems; and

(b) if so, the steps Government are taking to solve the problems of the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Urea is the only fertilizer under price, distribution and movement controls of the Government. Against the Essential commodities Act (ECA) allocations of 26.77 Lakh Metric Tonnes for Rabi '95-96' to U.P., 9.22 Lakh Metric Tonnes have been made available to the State upto November '95. The availability was adequate to support sales, which were 5.42 Lakh Metric Tonnes during this period.

The responsibility for districtwise distribution of urea is vested with the State Governments. During November '95, however, the Government of U.P. had requested for additional supplies specifically to the Eastern Districts of the State. Accordingly, arrangements were made to rush supplies to these Districts from various sources on a preferential basis.

There have been no complaints, about availability of other major fertilizers namely Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) and Muriate of Potash (MOP), which are decontroled.

Illegal Mining in Orissa

2705. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the illegal mining of precious stones in Orissa;

(b) if so, the areas in which illegal mining is going on;

(c) the steps taken to curb such illegal mining; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANAG): (a) to (d) Mining operations in any area can be taken only in accordance with the terms and conditions of a mining lease duly granted under the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957. The State Governments are empowered under section 21 of the said Act to punish a person who undertakes mining operations in contravention of the provisions of the said Act of 1957. The Central Government does not compile statistics on the actions taken by the State Governments to prevent illegal exploitation of minerals as such.

As per information furnished by the Government of Orissa, the State Legislature has also enacted an Act called 'Orissa Minerals (Prevention of theft, smuggling and other un-lawful Activities) Act 1989'. This Act enables the designated Officers of the State Govt. including police to search any permises and seize precious and semi-precious stones obtained illegally. The offences under this Act has been made cognigable.

Shortage of staff in National backward classes finance and development corporation

2706. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of an acute shortage of staff in the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation;

(b) the proposals for creation of posts submitted by the said Corporation during the last two years;

(c) the details of the action taken; if any, on each of those proposals;

(d) the specific reasons for not clearing each of the remaining proposals and by when these are proposed to be cleared; and

(e) whether Government propose to initiate action against the officials who had kept those proposals pending for such a long time and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) and (b) Two proposals for creation of posts have been submitted by NBCEDC during the last two years..